

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 224953

21

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 224953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI ON THE EXPECTED OPEC OIL PRICE
INCREASE

1. N.Y. TIMES OF SEPT. 19 CARRIES REPORT OF REMARKS MADE
SEPT. 18 BY IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI AT A WOMEN'S NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC CLUB LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON.

2. ZAHEDI REPORTEDLY DISASSOCIATED IRAN FROM THE OIL
CARTEL "EXTREMISTS" THAT MIGHT SEEK A RISE OF 30 TO 35
PERCENT AND CLASSIFIED HIS COUNTRY AS AMONG THE "MODERATES"
THAT WOULD SUPPORT A MODEST INCREASE. HE IS QUOTED AS
HAVING ADMITTED THAT HE WAS GUESSING, BUT PREDICTED A
PRICE INCREASE OF 5 TO 10 PERCENT. ZAHEDI IS SAID TO HAVE
JUSTIFIED SOME UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN OIL PRICES BY REFERENCE
TO A 35 PERCENT DECREASE IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 224953

DOLLAR OVER THE LAST 11 MONTHS.

3. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, ZAHEDI ANNOUNCED THAT IRAN WILL PROPOSE THE CREATION OF A 36-NATION ORGANIZATION (12 OIL PRODUCERS, 12 INDUSTRIALIZED STATES, AND 12 OIL-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) TO HELP DEAL WITH THE OIL PRICE BURDEN FACED BY THE POOREST COUNTRIES. HE IS SAID TO HAVE URGED THAT SUCH A GROUP, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IBRD AND

IMF, SEEK OUT WAYS TO EASE THE PAYMENTS DEFICITS OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES.
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